

# **Information for patients and carers**

## **ANCA-Associated Vasculitis AAV**

## What is vasculitis?

The immune system is the body's defense mechanism against infection. In certain illnesses this mechanism becomes inappropriately activated to target parts of the body. This type of illness is called an auto-immune disease.

Vasculitis is a term used to describe a rare group of auto-immune disorders which injure blood vessels in different organs. This can then lead to damage to the part of the body being supplied by them.

ANCA stands for anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic auto-antibody. Antibodies form part of the body's defense system. In ANCA-associated vasculitis, the ANCA antibody can cause severe disease involving organs such as the kidneys, lungs, nervous system, joints, and skin. The kidneys are most frequently affected.

## What causes vasculitis?

The exact cause for ANCA-associated vasculitis remains unclear. In some cases, an environmental trigger, infection or medication can cause disease.

## How is vasculitis treated?

Treatment of vasculitis is based on the use of medications to lower the activity of the body's immune system. This group of medications can also be called chemotherapy. You will be given a separate leaflet explaining the medication being suggested to treat you. Given the potential to affect different parts of the body, patient care is often undertaken with input from multiple relevant specialties where needed.

This is also known as multidisciplinary team approach to care.

## Contact details

Should you require further advice or information please contact the Renal department on telephone: **01772 522739**.

## Sources of further information

[www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk)

[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

[www.accessable.co.uk](http://www.accessable.co.uk)

[www.patient.co.uk](http://www.patient.co.uk)

[www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/veteran-aware](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/veteran-aware)

<https://bepartofresearch.nihr.ac.uk/>

More information about vasculitis can be found on the Vasculitis UK and Versus Arthritis websites which are listed below.

The Northwest Vasculitis Support Group is made up of patients in the Lancashire region. They are a great source of patient support, also welcome family, friends and carers.

**Vasculitis UK** - [www.vasculitis.org.uk](http://www.vasculitis.org.uk)

**Versus Arthritis** - [www.versusarthritis.org](http://www.versusarthritis.org)

**Northwest Vasculitis Support Group** - [nwvasculitis@outlook.com](mailto:nwvasculitis@outlook.com)

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All our patient information leaflets are available on our website for patients to access and download:

[www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets)

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If you want to stop smoking, you can also contact Smokefree Lancashire on Freephone **08081962638**

**Please ask a member of staff if you would like help in understanding this information.**

**This information can be made available in large print, audio, Braille and in other languages.**

Our patient information group review our leaflets regularly, if you feel you would like to feedback on this information or join our reading group please contact on email address:

[patientexperienceandinvolvem@LTHTR.nhs.uk](mailto:patientexperienceandinvolvem@LTHTR.nhs.uk)

**Department:** Renal

**Division:** Medicine

**Production date:** November 2025

**Review date:** November 2028

**JR 1401 v1**